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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/776,145

02/10/2004

Colin Fong

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SANTA MONICA, CA 90404

EXAMINER

OMOTOSHO, EMMANUEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/10/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/776,145

Applicant(s)

FONG, COLIN

Examiner

Emmanuel Omotosho

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3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 January 0406.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/10/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 1-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jordan US Patent No. 6,416,409 b1 and further in view of Peterson US 2003/0220139 a1.

4. Claims 1,9,14,21: In a progressive jackpot gaming environment, Jordan teaches a plurality of gaming machines (fig 1) linked to the system controller (inherent). Each gaming machine having a first display and a game controller arranged to control images of symbols displayed on the first display wherein at least one random event is caused to be displayed on the first display, if a predefined winning event occurs, the machine awards a prize (Par 2 lines 17-24). A second display with a feature game where during

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play of the feature game, feature images associated with the feature game are displayed on the second display (Par 2 lines 25-31, claims 2-3).

5. Jordan fail to specifically teach a remote display to which each of the gaming machines are connected, the remote display being visible to a player playing any one of the gaming machines connected to the remote display, at least certain of the feature images occurring on at least one of the displays of at least one of the gaming machines during the playing of the feature game on the at least one gaming machine cooperating with the feature images displayed on the remote display and the feature images being used in determining a feature outcome on the at least one gaming machine participating in the feature game.

6. In a progressive jackpot gaming environment, Peterson teaches of an improved gambling machine system with a remote display to which each of the gaming machines are connected, the remote display being visible to a player playing any one of the gaming machines connected to the remote display, at least certain of the feature images occurring on at least one of the displays of at least one of the gaming machines during the playing of the feature game on the at least one gaming machine cooperating with the feature images displayed on the remote display and the feature images being used in determining a feature outcome on the at least one gaming machine participating in the feature game (abstract).

7. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Peterson's teachings wherein the motivation is to provide a centralized display means to all players that displays current jackpot and gaming information such

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as bonus symbols and the current pool and amounts. For example, as players wager, the amount of the jackpot is incremented and updated on the remote display. The motivation comes from Peterson's abstract:

8. Claims 2,22-24: Jordan teaches the system in which a predetermined trigger condition, triggered by one of the game controller and the system controller, occurring during playing of a base game on any one of the gaming machines causes the feature game to commence, the trigger condition being configured so that, when it occurs on anyone of the gaming machines, all active gaming machines enter the feature game (Par 2 lines 49-58).

9. Claim 3: Jordan teaches the system in which the feature is an ongoing feature where whenever a trigger condition triggered by one of the game controller and the system controller, occurs on any one gamine machine to trigger the feature game, the feature game commences on that gaming machine, any other gaming machines continuing with the base game until the feature game is triggered on said any other gaming machines (Par 7 lines 43-54).

10. Claims 4,28: Jordan teaches the system in which the second display of each gaming machine displays a plurality of feature images and, when the trigger condition occurs in the base game and the feature game is initiated, an initial display on the first display of the gaming machine is icons relating to the feature images on the second display of that gaming machine (Par 7 lines 55-59).

11. Claims 5-6,15: Jordan teaches the system in which each gaming machine includes a selector operable by a player of the feature game to enable the player to

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make at least one selection associated with the feature game wherein the feature game involves playing for prizes (Par 7 lines 55-65, Par 8 lines 26-36).

12. Claims 7,30: Jordan teaches the system in which representations of the prizes are arranged at least initially, in a concealed condition (Par 8 lines 26-36).

13. Claims 8,31: Jordan teaches the system in which prizes are associated with predetermined, hidden places on a representation of a location displayed (Par 8 lines 26-36)

14. Claims 10,32: Jordan teaches the system in which a representation of the location similar to that displayed on the remote display is displayed on the first display and the player, using the selector, selects a position on the representation of the location which the player believes will result in a prize-winning outcome of the feature game (Par 7 lines 55-65).

15. Claims 11,36-39: Jordan teaches the random selection of awards from a set of awards (Par 2, lines 32-30). However, Jordan fails to specifically teach the system in which one of the game controller and the system controller causes a prize to be replaced whenever any prize is revealed during playing of the feature game. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to include such feature since Jordan suggests a playing theme relating to a maze. One of ordinary skill will be motivated to place the hidden goal of the maze in another location once it is revealed since placing the hidden goal in the same spot each time will make winning the prize predictable.

16. Claim 12-13: Jordan teaches the system in which the feature game comprises a fixed set of prizes and wherein the fixed set of prizes includes progressive jackpot prizes (Abstract).

17. Claim 16: Jordan fail to specifically teach the use of a touch-screen facility. However, the use of touch screen is well known in the art as means to provide player selections to the system. If applicant wishes to argue this, applicant should respectfully consider Gauselmann US Pub No. 2003/0216174 A1 Par. 31 before filing a response to the office.

18. Claims 17-18: Jordan teaches the system includes a cabinet in which the first display is mounted, a top box mounted on the cabinet, the second display being mounted in the top box (Fig 1).

19. Claim 19: Jordan teaches the system in which the game comprises a base game preceding the feature game, the feature game following the occurrence of a trigger condition in the base game (Par 8 lines 26-36).

20. Claim 20: Jordan teaches the gaming machine in which the base game preceding the feature game is a spinning reel game (Par 4 lines 47-57).

21. Claim 26: Jordan teaches the system includes setting other conditions with which a player must comply in order to be eligible to participate in the feature game (Par 3 lines 32-40).

22. Claim 27: Jordan teaches the feature game to be an ongoing feature, whenever a trigger condition occurs on any one gaming machine to trigger the feature game, the feature game commences on that gaming machine, any other gaming machines

continuing with the base game until the feature game is triggered on said any other gaming machines (Par 7 lines 43-54).

23. Claim 33: Jordan teaches the system includes displaying a scene on the second display representative of the selected icon moving towards the location which is displayed on the remote display and on the first display of the gaming machine (Par 8 lines 26-36).

24. Claim 34: Jordan teaches displaying a representation of the selected icon arriving at the selected position at the location and revealing the representation of the prize (Par 8 lines 26-36).

25. Claim 35: Jordan teaches selecting the prize from a fixed set of prizes randomly distributed by one of the game controller and the system controller at the positions of the location (Par 2 lines 33-40).

Conclusion

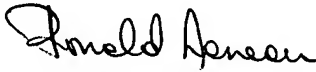
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emmanuel Omotosho whose telephone number is (571) 272-3106. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f 10-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EO


RONALD LANEAU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

7/2/07